

### **REMARKS**

By this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled, and claims 1-2 and 9-10 are amended. Claims 3-6, 8 and 11-12 remain in the application. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-12 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating that claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-12 are allowed over the prior art of record. Minor editorial revisions have been made to claims 1 and 9-10 in order to more clearly define the inventions of these claims. The amendments to claims 1 and 9-10 do not broaden the scope of protection for the present invention. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 9-10 are still clearly in condition for allowance for the reasons presented in the October 21, 2005 Amendment.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. 6,567,427) in view of Kikuchi et al. (U.S. 6,118,927). This rejection is believed to be moot with respect to claim 7 in view of the cancellation of this claim.

Furthermore, this rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 2 and 4 for the following reasons.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 1. Claim 4 depends from amended claim 2. The Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al., either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 4 are allowable merely by virtue of their dependency from allowed claim 1.

Nevertheless, the Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of claims 2 and 4 are patentable over Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al. for the following reasons.

Amended claim 2 recites the video processing method as receiving an instruction signal indicating whether the plural pieces of digital data are to be multiplexed or are to be demultiplexed and outputted, and receiving scene description data indicating the respective playback times or playback positions of the digital data. The method of amended claim 2 also outputs a multiplexing flag indicating whether or not the digital

data are multiplexed, and a scene description flag indicating whether or not there is a scene description.

Suzuki et al. discloses a video processing apparatus for receiving plural pieces of digital data such as video or audio and scene description data indicating playback information of the respective digital data, and for setting a scene description flag indicating whether or not there is a scene description.

Kikuchi et al. discloses an apparatus for reproducing video digital data from a medium which stores scene description data indicating the respective playback times of the digital data.

However, Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al., either individually or in combination, clearly do not disclose or suggest an apparatus or method for receiving an instruction signal indicating whether the plural pieces of digital data are to be multiplexed or are to be demultiplexed and outputted, and scene description data indicating the respective playback times or playback positions of the digital data, as recited in claims 1-2. Furthermore, Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al., either individually or in combination, clearly do not disclose or suggest an apparatus or method for outputting a multiplexing flag indicating whether or not the digital data are multiplexed, and a scene description flag indicating whether or not there is a scene description, as recited in claims 1-2.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that no obvious combination of Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al. would result in the inventions of claims 1 and 2 since Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al., either individually or in combination, clearly do not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claims 1 and 2.

Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to modify Suzuki et al. and Kikuchi et al. in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 2.

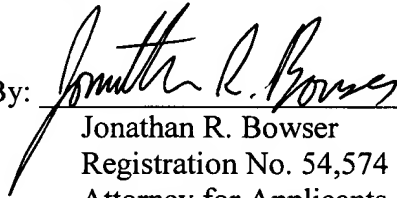
Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 1 and 2, as well as claim 4 which depends therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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